1: Blackwood E-5 (1929-1930) 1935
ON6 Buka ON6
Kurtatchi

and put on a stand consisting of logs (*papan*) resting on forked sticks (*atōn*) at a height convenient for working. It is now turned over again, so that the end of the *lamut* curves upwards. Some strong creeper (*wawal*) is tied round the bottom plank, threaded through between the two adjacent planks, and fastened round the *papan*, so as to fix the canoe securely to the stand. Lengths of creeper are also passed through between the side planks. These side planks are now pressed outwards by pushing between them a couple of stout sticks about 2 feet long, pushing against one side while resting the other end of the sticks against the other side. Suddenly the whole thing opens with a cracking noise. The outer planks are then pulled down and tied firmly to the supporting logs by means of the strings threaded between them. This pulls them still farther apart, till all five lie almost in a flat plane. Some considerable pressure is needed to pull down the second side after the first side is secured. Both ends of what are now the outer planks are then tied firmly round their tips, binding them together and to the end-keel.

Women or boys are now pressed into service for grinding up the 'putty nut'. This is done on lumps of brain coral. When freshly ground it is of a pinkish-yellow colour, but rapidly turns red. In a few days it has become dark red, and in a few weeks quite black, and very hard. It must be used when freshly picked and freshly grated, and must be put on rapidly in the shade, as it begins to harden very quickly. It is thickly plastered over all the seams, on both sides, by means of the worker's fingers (Pl. 51 *a*, *b*). There is then an interval of several days to allow the seams to harden.

When work is resumed, the supporting sticks are removed, and the holes which were left because of their presence when the seams were 'puttied' are filled in. In cutting the third pair of planks (*bátawa*) a ledge (*bēbēkil*) is left running inwards for about a foot from each end. Holes are made in these ledges opposite one another, the distances between them, about 2½ inches, being carefully measured with a piece of fibre. Short, stout braces (also called *bēbēkil*) are wedged in between the planks, and tied into place through these holes. After being placed in position, the *bēbēkil* are served with *asam* over their whole length. Six is the usual number for a small or medium-sized *mon*. Their object is to strengthen the canoe at its slender, pointed ends.